

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T SANA 2170

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YE, SA, YS, PINS
SUBJ: SAG-YAR RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: SAUDI CHARGE CONCERNED ABOUT HIT AND RUN RAIDS OF PDRY-ORGANIZED SALLALISTS IN MARIB AREA, ESPECIALLY REPORTS THEY MIGHT HIT SHARURA. CHARGE WITH SAG APPROVAL IS CONTINUING TO BROADEN CONTACTS WITH LEFTISTS. HE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS FORMER YAR PRIMIN AMRI BUT SAYS SAG WOULD HALT BUDGET SUPPORT IF EX PRIMIN AYNI RETURNED, ESPECIALLY AS PRIMIN, ON BASIS HIS "KNOWN CORRUPTION". SAG AMBASSADOR SUDAIRI WILL DEFINITELY RETURN IN ABOUT TEN DAYS.

2. DCM CALLED ON SAG CHARGE TAHA DUGAITHIR NOVEMBER 7 FOR TOUR D'HORIZON. DUGAITHIR EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RECENT HIT AND RUN RAIDS IN AREA OF MARIB. (HE NOTED SPECIFICALLY SIRWAH, WEST OF MARIB, AND IBN 'AYYAN) ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES RAIDS BEING CARRIED OUT BY NORTHERN YEMENI SALLALISTS, RECRUITED AND SUPPLIED BY SPDY AND DIRECTED IN ABSENTIA BY COL. ALI SALLAL, SON OF FORMER PRESIDENT AND FORMER PRO-COMMUNIST YAR AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW UNDER HIS FATHER. SALLALISTS REPORTEDLY HAVING SOME SUCCESS RECRUITING LOCALLY AMONG NIHM, DAHM, BANI DHABAYYAN AND MURAT TRIBESMEN. (PARAMOUNT SHAIKH OF LATTER, GHALIB- AL-AJDA', NOW IN SANA MAY SOON

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RECEIVE SAG SUBSIDY AT YARG REQUEST, ACCORDING DUGAITHIR.

THIS SIGNIFICANT SINCE MURAT AREA IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDS MARIB.). SALLALISTS GUERRILLAS INDISTINGUISHABLE ORGANIZATIONAL FROM OTHER ORGANIZATION OF YEMENI REVOLUTIONARY RESISTERS (OYRR) PERSONNEL, BUT DELIBERATE RECRUITMENT OF SALLALISTS BY PDRY FOR OYRR IS NEW FACTOR. PDRY, ACCORDING TO DUGAITHIR'S SOURCES, HAS PROVIDED TRUCKS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. HE AGREES THAT ESTIMATED STRENGTH PROVIDED BY SOURCES (400-500) IS ALMOST CERTAINLY EXAGGERATED. DUGAITHIR IS SPECIFICALLY DISTURBED BY REPORTS SALLALISTS CONSIDERING RAID ON SHARUAR, ALTHOUGH HE READILY CONCEDED IT IS LONG DISTANCE OVER EXPOSED DESERT FROM MARIB TO WELL-DEFENDED SHARUAR BASE. DUGAITHIR WAS AWARE (AS ARE WE) OF REPORTS PDRY MILITIA UNITS REPLACING PDRY REGULAR ARMY UNITS ON YAR BORDER. HIS INFORMATION IS THAT SOME OF REGULAR UNITS ARE BEING MOVED TO SIXTH GOVERNORATE OPPOSITE DHOFAR.

3. DUGAITHIR, WITH SAG APPROVAL, IS CONTINUING TO BROADEN CONTACTS WITH LOCAL BA'ATHIS AND OTHER LEFTISTS. HIS AIM IS, BY PERSUASION OR MORE TANGIBLE FINANCIAL MEANS, TO MAKE THEM MORE UNDERSTANDING OF SAUDI POLICY IN YEMEN. HE INDICATED RATHER OPENLY THAT EDUCATION MINISTER AFIF AND FORMER MININT AND CHIEF OF STAFF COL. ALI SAYF AL-KHAWLANI WERE (PREDICTABLY) RECEPTIVE CANDIDATES FOR SAG FINANCIAL SUPPORT. (AFIF IS WELL-KNOWN AS LEFTIST WHILE KHWLANI IS UNSTABLE OPPORTUNIST ON OUTS WITH PRESENT YARG.)

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBILITY CABINET CHANGES, DUGAITHIR THOUGHT THERE STILL POSSIBLITLITY AMRI WOULD RETURN, DEVELOPMENT HE OBVIOUSLY FAVORED. HE ASKED IF THERE ANY TRUTH TO RUMOR EMBASSY FAVORED AYNI RETURN. DCM RESPONDED IN NEGATIVE. NEITHER DID WE LIKE IDEA OF AN AMRI RETURN WHICH WE FELT MIGHT LEAD TO BLOODSHED. DUGAITHIR SAD THAT, "IN VIEW AYNI'S WELL-KNOWN CORRUPTION, SAG BUDGET SUBSIDY TO YARG WOULD STOP IMMEDIATELY IF HE BECAME PRIMIN.

5. ACCORDING DUGAITHIR SAG AMBASSADOR SUDAIRI WILL RETURN TO SANA'A ABOUT NOVEMBER 17. HE SPECIFICALLY
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DENIED RUMORS THAT HE MIGHT NOT RETURN.
CRAWFORD.

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